



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza opens June 12 with public events**

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*June 12 events include plaza dedication, LINCOLN theatrical experience premiere*

LINCOLN CITY, IND - A new monument in honor of Abraham Lincoln's Hoosier youth will be dedicated and unveiled on Friday, June 12, in Lincoln State Park. The dedication ceremony anchors a day of celebration and family fun that includes music, activities, period demonstrations and the world premiere of "LINCOLN," the new theatrical experience.

The public is invited to attend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza dedication ceremony, which starts at 10:30 a.m. CDT (11:30 a.m. EDT). Admission to the state park is free before 10:30 a.m. CDT. At the ceremony, visitors will enjoy Civil War-era music by a brass quintet from the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, a performance by the Evansville Children's Choir, President Lincoln's second inaugural performed by "LINCOLN" cast member, and remarks from Secretary of State Todd Rokita and the artist and designer who created the work of art.

"This work of art highlights the impact of Lincoln's early life in Indiana on his presidency," said Connie Nass, chair of the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. "It totally engages you – you actually interact with the art. It is more than a statue. It is an educational, meaningful and moving experience for all ages. It is a classroom in the round."

#### **A variety of free events are available at Lincoln State Park on June 12.**

- 10:30 a.m. – Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza dedication ceremony
- 11:30 a.m. – Lincoln neighborhood walk
- 11:45 a.m. – A talk with the plaza's artist and designer
- 1 p.m. – Backstage tour of the Lincoln Amphitheatre and set of "LINCOLN"
- 3 p.m. – Tour of the Colonel William Jones home

"There will be no better day for Lincoln enthusiasts to visit Lincoln State Park," said Nass. "The plaza unveiling, the premier of the theatrical experience and all kinds of activities in between will be fun and education for all ages."

Food and drinks will be available at the plaza site. Parking will be available as well in adjacent parking areas with van and bus transportation for those who have difficulty walking. Seating will be limited for the dedication and unveiling ceremony, so spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Tickets for the new "LINCOLN" theatrical experience include an Amish family-style meal, children's pioneer games, artisan demonstrations, the Lincoln exhibit, and free unlimited soft drinks and popcorn during intermission. Meals will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. CDT, and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

CDT. Presidential Section ticket prices are \$42.95 for adults, \$40.95 for seniors, \$38.95 for age 7 to 21, and free for age 6 and under. RailSplitter section ticket prices are \$39.95 for adults, \$37.95 for seniors, and \$35.95 for age 7 to 21. Visit [www.LincolnAmphitheatre.com](http://www.LincolnAmphitheatre.com) for more information.

The Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Pioneer Living Farm will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the national park, which is across Highway 162 from the state park. Admission to the national memorial is \$5 per vehicle.

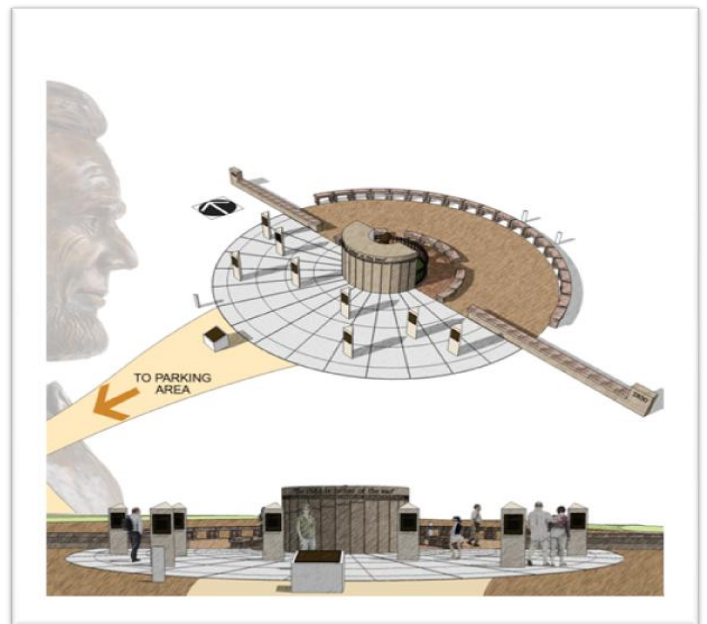
Fort Wayne, Ind., sculptor Will Clarke and George Morrison of the Fort Wayne architectural firm of Morrison Kattman Menze created the plaza design. The IALBC chose Clarke and Morrison from among artists across the state who submitted proposals to create a piece of public art, or an arts experience, reflective of 1816 to 1830, the years Lincoln lived in Indiana. The \$300,000 art project is a result of a cooperative effort between the IALBC, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) and Indiana Historical Bureau.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza consists of a large, bisected circular plaza. Visitors will first enter an area punctuated with limestone pedestals and interpretive signs signifying key milestones in Lincoln's formative Indiana years between ages seven and 21.

A central half-circle reminds visitors of young Abraham's growth from a boy to a man. Visitors can move freely between the pedestals. The second semicircle provides a more intimate space for reflecting upon the man who led this nation. It will contain a twice-life-size bronze bust of Lincoln, accompanied by some of his quotes.

The site is located near the entrance to Lincoln State Park on a knoll known as Oak Grove and surrounded by woods.

The 1,847-acre Lincoln State Park in Spencer County was created in 1932 as a memorial to Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The park also includes the historic home of Col. William Jones (Lincoln's merchant employer), hiking trails and two scenic lakes. Visitors also can explore Sarah Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve, named after Abraham's sister, who is buried in Little Pigeon Cemetery, located inside the park.



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